



Tempe Art in Private Development



Grove Parkway Plaza

7500 S. Priest Drive

Russell Bowers

*Boy and His Wagon;
The Blocks, 1996*

Bronze

Artist Website:

<http://bowersart.blogspot.com>

Photo: Craig Smith

Description: *Boy and His Wagon* and *The Blocks* fit well into the Grove Parkway Plaza which features family oriented retail tenants. Bower's figurative bronze sculptures are realistic and emphasize the importance of family.

Artist biography: Russell "Rusty" Bowers, a former Arizona State Senator from District 21, lists his occupation as Sculptor/Painter. "I love ripping the clay (before casting a bronze sculpture.) The clay...it has a texture, and when you rip a piece off," he says, demonstrating, "you can feel it." Though he has been a working artist for almost 20 years, Bowers still considers himself a novice. He acknowledges that his style tends toward the conservative, "I don't profess to have any abstract tendencies," he says. Still, Bowers considers his art honest and is critical of others who have opted for quantity over quality. He has called his art his "salvation," especially when the Legislature was in session, and says he regrets that his other responsibilities have often taken precedence over it.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer, The Renaissance Companies, as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.